

83-94, Vol. 9 Parts 95-106, Vol. 10 Parts 107-118 and Vol. 11 Parts 119-128. Each volume thus published in 12 parts with the exception of volumes 1 and 11 which had 10.

The date of the volume given on the title page is the date of publication of the last part. The first part could however have been published one or two years earlier. For example volume 1 is dated 1893 yet we know that part 1 was published before May 1892, probably in April of that year, as the *Ent. Rec.* Vol. 3 page 112 dated 16 May 1892 says "The first part of Mr. C. G. Barrett's work on the British Lepidoptera has been at last published".

The intention was to produce the work in monthly parts but this programme subsequently slipped a bit behind schedule. Again the *Ent. Rec.* is the source of this information. It is stated in Vol. 2 page 252 "Our monied Lepidopterists will hear with pleasure that Messrs. Reeve and Co. intend bringing out a work on the lepidoptera of the British islands in 5s monthly parts (12 parts for 54s if paid in advance) the number of parts apparently indefinite. To those who can afford an annual subscription of 54s, until the work is completed, it will be invaluable. To those who cannot, a small paper edition will be issued in vols. at 10s per vol". — M. J. PERCEVAL, Holmesdale Cottage, Mid-Holnwood, Dorking, Surrey.

RECOVERY OF MARKED CATOCALA NUPTA L. (RED UNDERWING) 6.5 KM. FROM RELEASE POINT. — On 25th September 1983 at this address (SP486144), as part of a mark and recapture study of moths at a Robinson light trap, a single male *C. nupta* was marked on the left forewing with a spot of green paint. The insect took to the wing and was watched as it flew off over neighbouring farm buildings. On 28th September, I received a telephone call from Dr. C. W. D. Gibson who is currently running a moth trap in Wytham Wood (SP457082), 6.5 km to the south west. He had that day taken in his trap the above mentioned moth, confirmed as such by his description of the marking and by my later being shown the specimen.

The two traps are separated by agricultural land and several major roads. There are no intervening woods. The Oxford Canal approximately connects the two sites and should this willow feeding species have been following the watercourse south it would have arrived in the general area of Wytham Wood. But for it to have done so and been retrapped was remarkably fortunate. I should emphasise that this record involves no artificial displacement of the moth from the original site of capture to another release site such as was reported by Craik (in *Ent. Gaz.*, **30**:115-124).

The weather during the period between marking and recapture was settled with only light southwesterly breezes. However, on the day before the initial capture, a strong southwesterly wind had been blowing *from* the direction of Wytham Wood to Park Farm, Kidlington. The possibility exists therefore that the moth had been blown

from its home area by this wind and may have been returning. The species is recorded annually at both sites. In conclusion, I would be interested to hear if anyone else has recorded natural movements of marked moths over such distances in the British countryside. — PAUL WARING, Park Farm House, Banbury Road, Kidlington, Oxford OX5 1AH.

ACHETA DOMESTICUS L. (THE HOUSE CRICKET) LIVING OUTDOORS IN SURREY. — A colony of house crickets became established around this suburban road in east Surrey during the long hot summer of 1983. Now rarely found in houses, it normally survives outside only on rubbish tips warmed by rotting material.

The insects were first noticed by their call, a short trill repeated over and over again. They started calling just before dusk and continued long into the night. The call was heard almost every night from 29th July to 9th September, when the onset of cold windy weather brought an end to the colony.

The number of calling males built up slowly to a maximum of ten in early September. Most were calling from cracks that had developed between the lawns and the paving stones during the long dry spell. Others were in cracks in the road surface or in the bare soil. The sounds came from the same positions each night. Calling males could be observed with a torch but only after a very stealthy approach. The raised position of the fore-wings while stridulating was very evident. The ones in the road cracks stopped calling when a car or a pedestrian passed. On one occasion a female was seen in a crack behind a paving stone, flexing its ovipositor raised above the folded hind-wings.

The origin of this colony of these normally indoor creatures is unknown. None of the local residents has admitted to having crickets on the hearth. There is a laundry a quarter-mile away and the terminal and other buildings of Gatwick Airport are one mile distant. These are both possible sources. — R. D. HAWKINS, 30D Meadowcroft Close, Horley, Surrey RH6 9EL.

BOUNTY ON WITTERSHAM WHITES. — Down at Wittersham on the Isle of Oxney bounty has been paid out on the heads of cabbage whites ever since anyone can remember. Wittersham lies on the Sussex-Kent border on the edge of the fertile pastures of Romney Marsh. It is in a good position to receive migrants since Dungeness is only ten miles away. No doubt plenty of cabbage crops were grown and hordes of defoliating caterpillars were seen.

Today the Wittersham Horticultural Society still carry a class in the children's section: '*Class 60 For the most Cabbage White Butterflies mounted on cards*'. Class 59 is '*For the most Queen Wasps pinned on cardboard mounts*.' First prize for each class in 1983 was 20p; 15p for second and 10p for third. Boys and girls under 16 who obtain the most points in the various classes are awarded a bonus of 50p.